



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NO. 25 BJ 2012

STATE OF EMERGENCY- SEVERE WEATHER AND FLOODING

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, beginning on Tuesday, March 20th and predicted to continue through Thursday, March 22nd, a series of strong thunderstorms passed over the State, depositing up to 6" of rain and generating tornadic activity throughout the State, many in areas which are still recovering from the severe weather and flooding which occurred a mere week ago and resulted in the issuance of a separate statewide emergency proclamation – 20 BJ 2012;

WHEREAS, this latest round of severe weather has created dangerous conditions for motorists and other travelers, required widespread school closures, caused damage to houses and buildings, loss of electricity in localized areas, and is causing flooding and the threat of flooding across a large portion of the State;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued alerts including special weather statements, severe thunderstorm warnings, tornado warnings, flood warnings, flash flood watches, and a coastal flood statement for different areas comprising much of the entire State;

WHEREAS, Parishes throughout the State, including Acadia, Ascension, Beauregard, Calcasieu Claiborne, Jefferson Davis, Natchitoches, St. Charles, Union, Vermilion, and Vernon have declared states of emergency in order to assist residents in areas impacted by this severe weather event, respond to ongoing flooding, and to implement necessary protective measures to protect their citizens and prepare for additional severe weather, and;

WHEREAS, the State anticipates that assistance may be needed to assist Parishes in their response to this continuing threat;

NOW THEREFORE, I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist statewide, as a result of the current flooding and

developing threat of additional flooding, that threatens the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe weather event.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from Wednesday, March 21, 2012 to Friday, April 20, 2012, unless terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 21st day of March, 2012.

/s/Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR**

/s/Tom Schedler
SECRETARY OF STATE